

**Minutes of the Meeting of Lessingham Parish Council held on Tuesday 08th July
2025 at 7.30pm at Lessingham Village Hall**

Present: Peter Peruzzi (Chairman)
Sue Allen
Georgina Dunn
James Holden
Sara Burns, Parish Clerk

1. Apologies for Absence

Emma Hallums and Helen Twining sent apologies, accepted by all.

2. Declaration of Interest for items on the agenda

None.

3. Public Forum

a) Public

A member of the public has been in contact with the council regarding their concerns about workmen parking at Sundale, Hedgehog Walk. The parking on one occasion has caused obstruction to vehicles passing – emergency services and bin collection lorries. The clerk has responded, making the member of public aware of how to report such issues and to get in touch if there are any other issues in the future. The council has noted this may be an ongoing issue whilst works are being done.

b) County Councillor

Richard Price sent over a digital copy reporting the following:

One Council for Norfolk Backed by Cabinet:

Norfolk County Council's cabinet has selected a single unitary council as it's preferred option which will be developed into a detailed proposal and submitted to the Government in September. NCC has studied data and evidence on the pros and cons of one, two or three unitary councils and asked the public what mattered to them about the local councils and services.

Norfolk's market towns invited to apply for grants to attract more visitors:

Projects that are aimed at increasing sales and footfall in market towns will be able to apply for grants of between £1000 and £5000 through an initiative being rolled out across the whole of Norfolk. Organisations and business are being invited to apply for the Love Your Market Town fund's Pride of Place grants, the scheme is supported by Norfolk County Council and applicants have until 31st August to submit their ideas. More information can be found via the New Anglia Growth Hub.

£3.8m pledged to support apprenticeships through Norfolk levy scheme:

Over £3.8m has been pledged by over 30 donating companies in the first two financial years of Apprenticeships Norfolk's Levy Support Scheme and more than £3.2m has now been transferred to more than 160 business – triple the original £1m target.

Norfolk County Council Ranked Among best for Climate Action:

Published by Climate Emergency UK, the scorecard evaluates councils on key areas such as green energy, sustainable transport and environmental stewardship. NCC has achieved third place among all county councils in the UK, cementing its position as a national leader in climate action. Key achievements include – 100% Green Electricity, LED Streetlights, Solar Power, Tree Planting and Electric Buses.

New options assessment work for Norwich Western Link:

Norfolk County Council is planning to explore options for a Norwich Western Link to reduce traffic problems and improve travel west of Norwich.

The council's cabinet will be asked to approve this study, which will include public consultation. The options will cover improving current roads, boosting public transport and active travel (walking, cycling) and building new single or dual carriageway routes.

As a consequence of the bat concerns and previous feedback, it's unlikely that a dual carriageway or a viaduct over the River Wensum will be included in the options. A report will go to the cabinet in July, with results of the study and consultation expected next summer. Then, a preferred option for the Norwich Western Link may be recommended.

- c) District Councillor
No report.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13th May 2025

The minutes of the last meeting were **agreed**, proposed by Gina Dunn, seconded by James Holden, all in favour.

5. Co-option of Parish Councillor

No applications at this meeting to consider.

6. Chairman Report

Peter Peruzzi has informed the council he wishes to stand down as Chairman at the end of his term in May 2026 and would like to remain as a councillor. Peter noted he would continue as Chairman if no one took on this role.

Peter is collecting the speed monitor camera on the 9th July.

7. Clerk Report

The Clerk has contacted Ingham parish council to discuss their tree and hedge planting but has not yet had a response.

The Clerk noted both approved donations have been made, one to Happisburgh Coast Watch and one to North Norfolk Community Transport, both of which were gratefully received.

8. Finance

a) Finances 2025/2 To Date

The accounts were noted. Since the last meeting the following had been received:

North Norfolk District Council	Precept	££2650.70
Mautby PC	50% Training Expenses	£40.00
Unity Bank	Interest	£53.46

b) Payments

It was **agreed** to pay the following, proposed by Georgina Dunn, seconded by Helen Twining, all in favour:-

S Burns	Salary May & June 2025	£308.67
HMRC	PAYE May & June 2025	£77.17
S Burns	Admin Expenses	£19.99

9. Correspondence

1. Environment agency Maintenance Work – received and noted that this has been done.
2. Steff Aquarone – May Report for Parishes – received.
3. Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan – Notice of Adoption – received.
4. Eccles to Winterton Groyne Refurbishment Update – received and noted the work is finished and is working well.
5. Town and Parish Briefing Devolution and LGR – received.
6. Defra – Flood Funding Consultation and Call for evidence – received.
7. Eccles Residents Meeting Minutes RSPB – received.

10. Planning

a) New Applications

None

b) Applications considered between meetings

- i. PF/25/0957 - Westview Cottage, Heath Road, Hempstead, Lessingham - Single story extension to the front of dwelling to replace an existing porch/greenhouse – **No Objections**
- ii. PF/25/1181 – Lessingham Manor Cottage, Heath Road, Lessingham – Conversion of existing outbuilding to indoor swimming pool and associated facilities - **No Objections**

c) Decisions

- i. PF/25/0292 - Sun Dale, Hedgehog Walk - Front and rear extensions to dwelling with new duo-pitched roof over whole dwelling. Replacement side boundary wall. (part-retrospective) – **Approved**
- ii. PF/25/0238 – Mirabella, Bush Drive, Bush Estate, Eccles-on-sea – Demolition of existing 2-bed bungalow and erection of replacement single storey 2-bed dwelling (self-build) – **Approved**
- iii. PF/25/0957 – Westview Cottage, Lessingham – Single story extension to the front of dwelling to replace existing porch/greenhouse - **Approved**

11. Highways and Parish Assets

a) Invitation to Bid for Parish Partnership 2026/27

It was agreed to add this to the next agenda.

b) General Highway Issues

Georgina Dunn noted all wildflowers had been removed and hedges cut down Church Lane. At the beginning of July, the height and width of the hedges had been reduced. This has not been done by the landowners, highways have also been contacted, and they have not done this work, so we do not know who has carried out this work. This is the third time this has happened since the beginning of April, which means the Wildlife Act has been contravened. After discussion, it was agreed to see if we can find out who has done the work so it can be prevented next year.

James Holden reported a house on The Street which has been empty for some time, has a broken window which is bowing out posing a danger. If this window falls out, it could end up in the road. The Clerk will report this to NNDC.

James Holden also noted the recent resurfacing works in the village have been done but have left large parts still damaged with potholes not repaired and large parts of the road with very uneven surfaces. Residents have reported this and requested highways revisit to make repairs however they have not been told when this will be done.

c) General Parish Asset Issues

The council discussed the broken bench, which is in disrepair, the council do not own this bench but as it is regularly used, have discussed getting this replaced. The Clerk will contact NNDC to find out if this is a memorial bench and research funding to replace the bench if possible.

After a discussion about tree and hedge planting in the village, it was agreed what is already planted should be looked after and maintained before planting anything new.

d) To Adopt the IT Policy

The IT Policy has been adopted. Proposed by Peter Peruzzi and Seconded by Georgina Dunn, all in favour.

12. Items for the Next Agenda

1. Fishing on Eccles Beach and Parking
2. Invitation to bid for Parish Partnership 2026/27
3. Parking concerns in and around Eccles.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would take place on **Tuesday 9th September 2025** at 7.30pm at Lessingham Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

CHAIRMAN